



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 17, 2002

### **S. 2817**

### **National Science Foundation Doubling Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
on September 5, 2002*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 2817 would authorize the appropriation of \$37.7 billion over the 2003-2007 period for the activities of the National Science Foundation (NSF). Assuming implementation of the bill, NSF's appropriation would roughly double over the five-year period, increasing from \$4.8 billion in 2002 to \$9.8 billion in 2007. This total includes funding for the Mathematics and Science Partnerships currently administered by the Department of Education. S. 2817 also would establish guidelines for allocating NSF funding and require the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to prepare reports on issues related to research instrumentation and program duplication. Finally, the bill would outline new procedures for protecting the confidentiality of certain information collected by NSF and impose civil penalties for violations of the provision.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost a total of \$26.1 billion over the 2003-2007 period. Provisions imposing new civil penalties could increase governmental receipts (i.e., revenues), but CBO estimates that any amounts collected would be insignificant. Because S. 2817 could affect receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply.

S. 2817 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The bill would make grants available to state and local educational agencies and institutions of higher education to support improvements in educational programs for science and mathematics. Any costs to the educational institutions would be incurred voluntarily.

## ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2817 is shown in the following table. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the authorized amounts will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year and that spending will occur at rates similar to existing NSF programs. Based on information from OSTP, CBO estimates that the office would incur no significant costs to implement this bill. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 250 (general science, space, and technology).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
NSF Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority <sup>a</sup>	4,802	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	4,037	3,229	1,124	328	124	45
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	5,536	6,391	7,378	8,520	9,839
Estimated Outlays	0	1,384	4,135	5,717	6,845	8,005
NSF Spending Under S. 2817						
Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	4,802	5,536	6,391	7,378	8,520	9,839
Estimated Outlays	4,037	4,613	5,259	6,045	6,969	8,050

a. The 2002 level is the amount appropriated for that year for NSF and the \$13 million appropriated for Mathematics and Science Partnerships at the Department of Education.

## PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act sets up pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or receipts. Although S. 2817 could affect receipts by increasing amounts collected from civil penalties, CBO estimates that any such effects would be insignificant.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 2817 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would make grants available to state and local educational agencies and institutions of higher education to support improvements in educational programs for science and mathematics. Any costs to the educational institutions would be incurred voluntarily.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On May 31, 2002, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 4664, the Investing in America's Future Act of 2002, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on May 22, 2002. That bill would cover a shorter period of time, but the amounts authorized for fiscal years 2003 through 2005 are similar to the levels in S. 2817. H.R. 4664 does not include provisions regarding the confidentiality of information and therefore would not affect governmental receipts. Other differences between the two bills would not affect their cost.

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